

## THE BODY EPHESIANS 4:1-6

***The apostle Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus from prison. He had spent a good bit of time in their city and was used by God to found their church. In Eph 4, he writes to them about the unity of the body of Christ. Not a unity divorced from truth, but based on truth. What binds believers together? What is essential?***

**As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life (“walk”) worthy of the calling you have received (“to which you have been called”).**

**1. Be completely humble and gentle (“with all humility and gentleness”).**

- a. be patient (“long suffering, patient, endure, forbear”).
- b. Bearing (“hold up, suffer, tolerate, have patience with”) one another in love. (Ex 23:4-5)

**2. Make every effort (“be quick, diligent, zealous”) to keep (“preserve, guard”) the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Which begs the question, Why? Because there is**

- a. one body (the church - Rom 12:3-8)
- b. one Spirit. Just as...
- c. you were called (*called into 1 Cor 12:12-13*) [one hope] of (“resulting from”) your calling. *The emphasis here is on the commonality of our calling.*
  - One Lord (Jn 14:6, Act 4:12)
  - One faith (Gal 1:6-9)
  - One baptism (Baptism of the Holy Spirit, symbolized by water baptism -1 Cor 12:12-13).
  - One God and Father of all who is over all, through all and in all (Dt 6:4-6, Is 45:19-25, Rom 3:28-30).

Our common faith in Christ is what binds us together. As believers in Jesus, we have been baptized into the body of Christ, sealed, equipped, and are members “one of another.” Notice The declaration of truth that is the basis for that unity we are called to maintain. In the Bible are many creedal statements (Statements of faith. Creed = “I believe”). Some examples are: Dt 4:4-9, Rom 10:9-10, 11:33-36; 1 Cor 15:3-4, Phil 2:6-11, Col 1:15-20, 1 Tim 3:16, 2 Tim 2:8a, Rev 1:7.

**One of the oldest creeds is the “Apostles Creed,” which in its early forms dates back to at least the mid 2nd Century A.D.**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.**

**He descended into Hell (Lit: “death,” the grave), on the third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God there Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the quick (“living”) and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic (or, “universal”) church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting, Amen.**